

Remarks:

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowance of claims 13 and 14. Through the claim amendments above, and the Remarks that follow, all grounds for objections and rejections are removed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

(a) Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onyskevych¹ in view of Fogle, Jr.² Additionally, claim 2 was rejected as being unpatentable over the Onyskevych/Fogle combination and further in view of Sudo³.

(b) Claims 1, 4 and 8 have been cancelled from the application, and claims 2-3, 5-7 and 9-12 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 13. If an independent claim is nonobvious, claims that depend from the independent claim are also nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1071; 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 5-7 and 9-12, as amended, are similarly patentable over the cited art.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks herein establish the patentability of claims 2-3, 5-7 and 9-14, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections to the claims.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 5,644,327 issued 01 July 1997 to Onyskevych, *et al.*

² U.S. Patent No. 5,691,498 issued 25 November 1997 to Homer William Fogle, Jr.

³ U.S. Patent No. 5,475,264 issued 12 December 1995 to Sudo, *et al.*

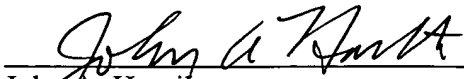
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Favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-854-4000.

Respectfully submitted,
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